



Please type or print signature inside this box.

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

2

Complete If Known

Application Number	09/834,431
Filing Date	April 13, 2001
First Named Inventor	Keiji Mabuchi et al
Group Art Unit	2612
Examiner Name	Xogesh K. Aggarwal
Attorney Docket Number	075834.00068

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ²	U.S. Patent Document Number ³	Kind Code ⁴ (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
JK	US1	6,124,888		Toshiyuki Terada et al	9/26/2000-	9/26/2000
JK	US2	6,441,849		Hidetoshi Fukuda	8/27/2002	
	US3					
	US4					
	US5					
	US6					
	US7					
	US8					
	US9					
	US10					
	US11					
	US12					
	US13					
	US14					
	US15					
	US16					
	US17					
	US18					
	US19					
	US20					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ²	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁴ (if known)			
F1	EP	0 840 503 A2		Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.	05/06/1998		
F2							
F3							
F4							
F5							
F6							
F7							
F8							
F9							
F10							

Examiner Signature
yogesh

Date Considered

06/06/2005

¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

²Unique citation designation number. ³See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ⁴Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.